

From: ["Bryan, David" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN,DAVID>](mailto:EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN,DAVID)

To: [Bustos](#)  
[Patrick;Frizzell](#)  
["Damon;R7 Senior" <Staff;Slugantz>](#)  
[Lynn](#)

CC:

Date: 10/3/2014 3:53:19 PM

Subject: Post-Dispatch - Editorial: Hope for cancer sufferers in north St. Louis County

Attachments: [Army Letter.pdf](#)

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## Editorial: Hope for cancer sufferers in north St. Louis County

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - October 02, 2014 3:30 pm • By the Editorial Board

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/editorial-hope-for-cancer-sufferers-in-north-st-louis-county/article\\_6c446dcf-5a0b-532c-a2ce-3ac9c5b629fa.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/editorial-hope-for-cancer-sufferers-in-north-st-louis-county/article_6c446dcf-5a0b-532c-a2ce-3ac9c5b629fa.html)

### Copy of letter attached.

**Two environmental** disasters created in this region generations ago — nuclear waste in [Coldwater Creek](#) in north St. Louis County and lead mine debris from the Doe Run smelter in Herculaneum — share striking similarities.

In each case people have died, land has been laid barren, corporations have pointed fingers at everyone in sight and the state has not fully lived up to its responsibility to protect citizens and regulate businesses.

It may be too late to do more in the case of the smelter in Herculaneum. Hope was buried by the Missouri Legislature last year when it overrode Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of a bill limiting large punitive damage awards against Doe Run to people who contend lead mine debris contaminated their property and poisoned their children.

[Doe Run Resources Corp.](#) was the most recent owner of the smelter. In July 2011 a St. Louis jury awarded \$320 million to punish the Fluor Corp., which owned the mine before Doe Run. The Legislature was shielding Doe Run's owner — junk bond billionaire Ira Rennert — from the same sort of justice. When it comes to choosing between working-class Missourians and a New Yorker with a fortune estimated by Forbes magazine at \$6.3 billion, the Legislature does not flinch.

However, there is still time to help the people who were raised along the 15 miles of Coldwater Creek that wanders through the communities of Florissant, Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, St. Ann, Berkeley and Ferguson.

[Gail Vasterling](#), director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, may turn out to be a hero for many of those residents. She also may be Exhibit A in why state and federal regulatory agencies are necessary to stand between corporate actions and citizen safety.

What Ms. Vasterling did late last month was to actually acknowledge that there may be something to the fears that have haunted the area's residents for decades. This doesn't sound like so much, except that Missouri regulators aren't usually so forthcoming.

Ten days ago Ms. Vasterling asked for help from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to design a study to investigate whether there is a link between the high rates of cancers in north St. Louis County and the historical nuclear contamination of Coldwater Creek.

She told the Post-Dispatch's Blythe Bernhard that she based her request on concerns from the public, the history of nuclear waste in St. Louis and the results of a new state cancer study.

It's taken some 60 years and too many deaths for someone with authority to say yes, we need a scientific study to find out whether these two things are connected. Others have said there is no connection — most recently the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services reported last year that it found no higher risk of cancers linked to radiation for people living in six ZIP codes adjacent to the creek. But the health department acknowledged that its study did not include people who had moved out of the area. Results were inconclusive.

**So then the state** updated the study with disease investigators adding seven years of cancer data through 2011, more rare types of cancers and the two ZIP codes (63034 and 63044) in Maryland Heights and Bridgeton nearest the West Lake Landfill, where nuclear waste was dumped illegally in the 1970s.

About the same time, a frustrated group of McCluer North alumni conducted an informal survey of their own. They had noticed a spike in cancers among childhood friends who were then in their late 30s and early 40s. The group started a Facebook page that grew to nearly 8,500 members by January.

The group launched an informal survey last year of 3,300 current and former residents and found that more than a third of those contacted had developed cancers. Their findings contradicted the state health department report.

**Survey participants** reported 202 thyroid cancers or conditions, 113 brain tumors and 320 auto-immune disorders. Among the more interesting findings was 37 appendix cancers — an extremely rare form of cancer that affects fewer than 1 in 314,000 Americans a year.

Area residents have been trying since at least the 1980s to get someone to listen to their worries about Coldwater Creek. It was contaminated after St. Louis' Mallinckrodt Chemical Works secretly signed on in 1942 to participate in the Manhattan Project by enriching uranium for the world's first controlled nuclear chain reaction.

The company refined uranium for 15 years at a downtown site and stored tons of hazardous waste there. When it ran out of room, the company trucked more tons to a couple of sites near the airport and the headwaters of the creek.

When the isolated area expanded during the population boom of the 1950s, with construction proceeding at a rapid pace, nuclear toxins were spread through the dirt and air. When the creek would flood, the contaminants would spread even farther.

A federal judge last year dismissed all but one claim in lawsuits filed against Mallinckrodt by 29 people who believe their cancers were caused by the creek's radioactive contamination. Some Mallinckrodt workers who developed one of 22 cancers have been determined eligible for payment of medical expenses plus \$150,000.

Now, with Ms. Vasterling's request to the CDC, residents can have some hope for recompense. It won't offset the tragedy of cancer, but it could be a form of justice that's been too long coming.



Surrounded by messages of hope to live longer with her leukemia, Jennifer Smith, 41, prepares to judge her daughter's cheerleading competition on March 20, 2013, in O'Fallon, Mo. Smith, who grew up in Florissant playing in the waters of Coldwater Creek, was diagnosed with leukemia when she was 33 and just learned last year about the possible cancer cluster study surrounding Coldwater Creek. "I am angry. I want people to be accountable," said Smith. Photo by Laurie Skrivan, [lskrivan@post-dispatch.com](mailto:lskrivan@post-dispatch.com)



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

[www.dnr.mo.gov](http://www.dnr.mo.gov)

**SEP 22 2014**

Ms. Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Mr. Eric V. Hansen  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Management and Budget)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Ms. Nicki Fatherly, R.G.  
National Program Execution Manager  
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program  
441 G Street, NW, #3Q50  
Washington, D.C. 20314

**Subject: Priority Funding to Support the Rapid and Thorough Completion of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) Projects in St. Louis, Missouri**

Dear Ms. Darcy, Mr. Hansen & Ms. Fatherly:

This letter is sent to you in urgency, to express the need for top priority funding in support of the rapid and thorough completion of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program projects in St. Louis, Missouri. This remediation must be done quickly and completely as, in its current condition, the potential exposure and movement of contaminated materials is of grave concern to the State of Missouri. These properties, long contaminated by FUSRAP wastes, are not owned or controlled by government agencies, but instead are occupied by businesses or are otherwise publicly accessible green spaces used for recreation and/or as a utility corridor.

We commend the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Louis District FUSRAP team for the services they provide. This includes hosting meetings with utility companies and municipalities to notify them of radiological support services that are available. However, we and the local USACE staff continue to identify utility and construction projects within potentially contaminated areas that have been initiated without any prior notification or request for radiological support. We believe we were able to identify these activities only because they were in highly visible areas in close proximity to the project areas. Overall, we have no consistent means of discovering activities that fall within the large potentially contaminated areas not readily visible to us.



Recycled Paper

Ms. Darcy, Mr. Hansen & Ms. Fatherly  
Page Two

Coldwater Creek in north St. Louis County is an example of potentially contaminated land that is both a commonly used utility corridor and a play area for children, being bordered by homes for much of its length and is not readily visible to passersby. Utility and road crews frequently dig into these soils. Children play on and in them. We believe that priority funding to allow rapid and complete remediation is needed to address this concern.

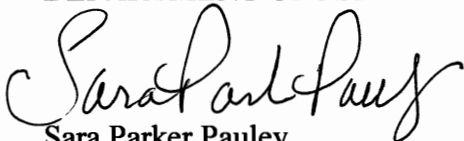
The local USACE has stated that anticipated reduced funding will not allow complete remediation of the St. Louis FUSRAP Sites until Federal Fiscal Year 2017 or later. Meanwhile, both current and former residents of this community have voiced strong opinions that health-related tragedies experienced within their families are a result of this contamination and are seeking corroboration and compensation.

Therefore, in summary, we ask that additional Civil Works funding be directed to FUSRAP, and specifically the St. Louis sites, up to an amount that will support the local USACE St. Louis office and their contractors' full capacity for expedited rapid remediation efforts.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in more detail, we can be reached at the following phone numbers; Ms. Parker Pauley at (573) 522-6221 and Ms. Vasterling at (573) 751-6001.

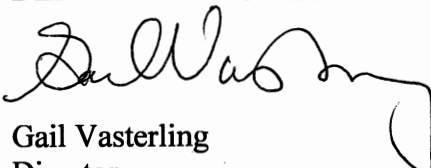
Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Sara Parker Pauley  
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES



Gail Vasterling  
Director

SPP/GV:man

*Celebrating 40 years of taking care of Missouri's natural resources.  
To learn more about the Missouri Department of Natural Resources visit [dnr.mo.gov](http://dnr.mo.gov).*



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, Governor • Sara Parker Pauley, Director

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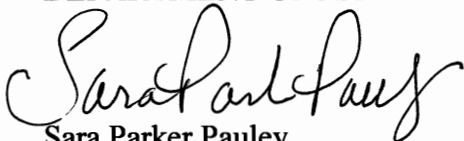
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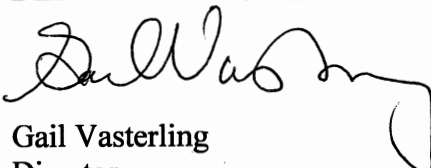
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